

REMARKS

Applicant graciously appreciates the Office's attention to the instant application. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. This amendment is
5 believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the April 7, 2004 Office Action.

As mentioned above, claim 1 is currently amended and claims 2-9 are new. Claims 1-10 are pending.

10 Claim 1

The Office rejected claim 1 under §102(b) as anticipated by US 2,602,647 to Miller. Claim 1 is currently amended. Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly recite the unique features of the invention. For example, claim 1 now recites that the flow director allows for flow of the fluid or gas along
15 a centerline of an opening of the manifold. The conical distribution plates of Miller do not allow for such flow. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Miller does not disclose the subject matter of claim 1. Further, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach such an arrangement." Applicant therefore requests allowance of claim 1, as currently amended.

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Claim 2-7

Claims 2-7 are new and depend directly or indirectly on claim 1. Applicant submits that claims 2-7 include patentable subject matter. Allowance of claims 2-7 is respectfully requested.

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Claim 8

Claim 8 is a new independent claim. Applicant submits that claim 8 includes patentable subject matter. Allowance of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

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Claims 9-10

Claims 9-10 are new and depend directly on claim 8. Applicant submits that claims 9-10 include patentable subject matter. Allowance of claims 9-10 is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Claims 1-10 are pending and believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the present application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate issuance 10 of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the unresolved issue.

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Respectfully Submitted,

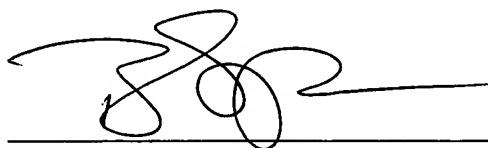
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